

**National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594**

Brief of Accident

Adopted 08/26/2002

FTW02LA104		03/27/2002		Fort Collins, CO		Aircraft Reg No. N8942F		Time (Local): 12:05 MST			
Make/Model:		Hughes / 269A-1				Fatal		Serious		Minor/None	
Engine Make/Model:		Lycoming / HIO-360-AIA				Crew		0		0	
Aircraft Damage:		Substantial				Pass		0		0	
Number of Engines:		1									
Operating Certificate(s):		None									
Type of Flight Operation:		Instructional									
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:		Part 91: General Aviation									
Last Depart. Point:		Fort Collins, CO				Condition of Light:		Day			
Destination:		Local Flight				Weather Info Src:		Weather Observation Facility			
Airport Proximity:		On Airport				Basic Weather:		Visual Conditions			
Airport Name:		Fort Collins Downtown Airport				Lowest Ceiling:		None			
Runway Identification:		Unk/Nr				Visibility:		10.00 SM			
Runway Length/Width (Ft):		Unk/Nr				Wind Dir/Speed:		260 / 013 Kts			
Runway Surface:						Temperature (°C):		19			
Runway Surface Condition:						Precip/Obscuration:		None / None			
Pilot-in-Command		Age: 42				Flight Time (Hours)					
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)						Total All Aircraft:		1500			
Flight Instructor; Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Helicopter						Last 90 Days:		300			
Instrument Ratings						Total Make/Model:		400			
None						Total Instrument Time:		1300			

On takeoff during the instructional flight, the wind was variable at 2 to 3 knots. As the student was hovering the helicopter at approximately 3 feet agl, a sudden gust of wind caused the helicopter to "wobble." The instructor took control of the aircraft, and another wind gust turned the helicopter downwind. The instructor attempted to land. However, the wind continued to drive the helicopter forward with an excessive nose low attitude. With the tail rotor into the wind, creating a "high power demand and limited tail rotor authority," the helicopter "skipped" along the dirt 2 or 3 times, the right strut failed, and the aircraft rolled over on its right side. The flight instructor reported the wind was gusting to 60 knots. The reported wind at a location 8 miles south of the accident site was 260 degrees at 13 knots gusting to 25 knots.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

FTW02LA104				
File No. 12138	03/27/2002	Fort Collins, CO	Aircraft Reg No. N8942F	Time (Local): 12:05 MST

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: HOVER

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Occurrence #3: ROLL OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
the flight instructor's failure to maintain control of the helicopter while hovering. Contributing factors were the tailwind and gusty wind conditions.